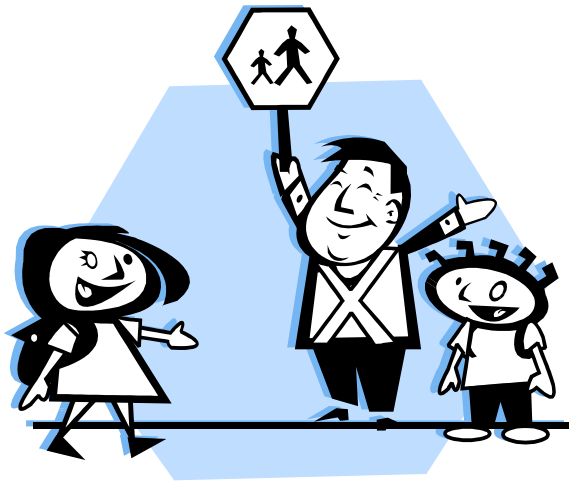


# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SR2S)



## *SR2S Survey Results*

**Pedestrian & Bicyclist Advisory Committee**  
City of Lebanon  
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# SR2S Survey Results

## About the survey

The City of Lebanon's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) developed a survey to collect information from parents with children at Lebanon's elementary schools and at Lebanon Junior High.

The survey collected information about current travel to school, attitudes towards walking and biking to school and perceived barriers to walking or biking more. The survey questionnaire is included on page 6 of this report.

The surveys were distributed to parents during parent teacher conferences in late October and early November 2006. A total of 358 surveys were completed by parents.

The survey data were entered into a computer and then analyzed by members of PBAC. Full results from the survey begin on page 7 of this report.

The following sections of this report describe the questionnaire, give an overview of the responses and present some of the key findings.

## The survey questionnaire

The questionnaire was a single page paper survey completed by parents with children at Lebanon's five elementary schools – School Street (K-2), Sacred Heart (K-2), Mt. Lebanon (K-3), Hanover Street (3-6), and Seminary Hill (4-6) – and at Lebanon Junior High (7-8).

The questionnaire consisted of nine questions and a space for comments. The questions asked about:

- Which school the child attended and how far the school is from home
- Current travel to school – on that day and then about walking or biking to school in general
- Whether the parent wished their child walked or biked more often
- Specific reasons why their child does not walk or bike more often, and then drilled down for more details of the safety concerns that parents have
- Whether parents would allow their child to walk or bike if accompanied by an adult

The survey questionnaire is included on page 6 of this report.

## Survey administration and response

The surveys were distributed to parents during parent teacher conferences in late October and early November 2006. A total of 358 surveys were completed by parents. Table 1 shows the number of responses and the response rate from each school.

**Table 1: Response rate by school**

School	Students Enrolled	Survey's Returned	Response Rate
School Street	90	37	41.1%
Sacred Heart	93	36	38.7%
Seminary Hill	164	32	19.5%
Mount Lebanon	237	84	35.4%
Hanover Street	259	92	35.5%
Lebanon Junior High	304	77	25.3%
Total	1147	358	31.2%

Tabulations of the responses to all of the questions, in total and by school, are included at the end of this report, beginning on page 7.

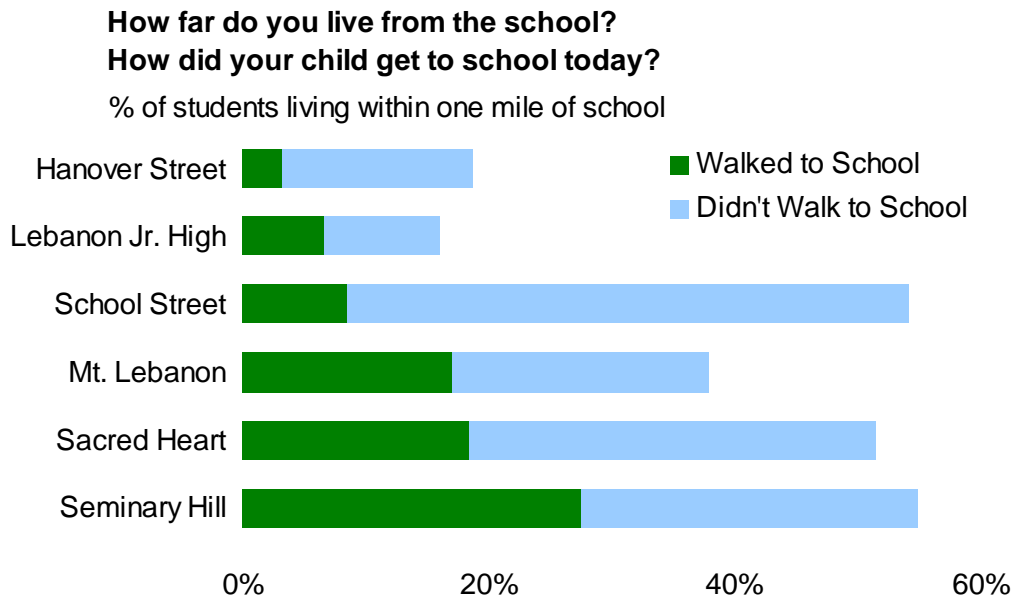
## Survey findings

This section of the report highlights some of the key findings of the survey.

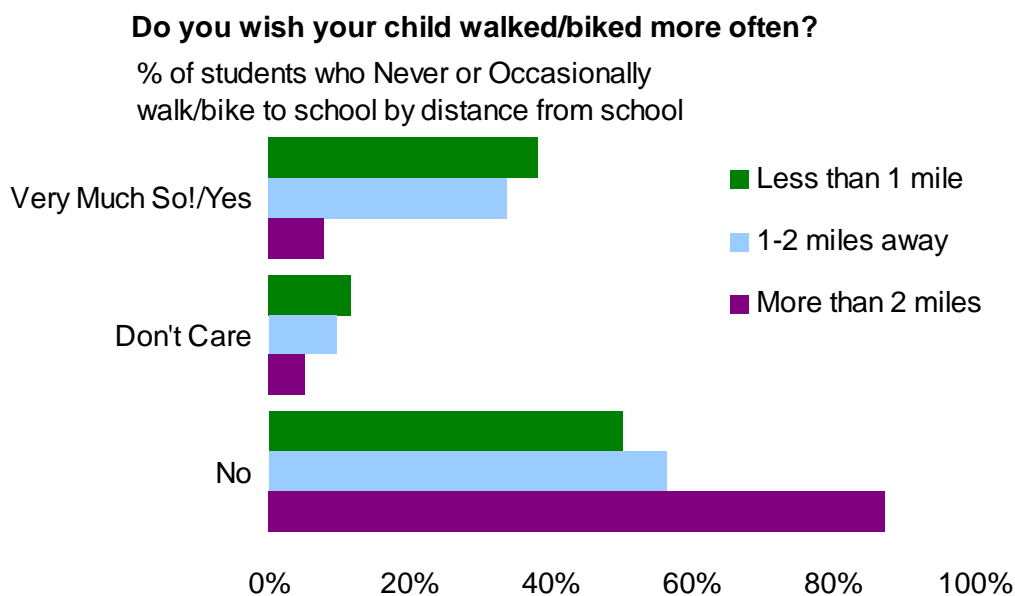
### Potential for walking

A third of the parents who completed the survey said that they lived within one mile of their child's school. Almost all of the children who had walked to school on the day their survey was completed were in this group of close to school residents. The breakdown of travel to school in this group was 35% walked to school, 6% rode the bus, and 59% were dropped off by car.

Figure 1 shows, for each of the schools, the proportion of children who live within one mile of school and the split between walking and not walking to school. It can be argued that all of this group lives close enough to walk to school, but only some currently walk. Those not walking make up most of the "potential walkers" who might walk in the future if the Safe Routes to School program is successful.

**Figure 1 : Potential for walking****Desire to walk or bike more often**

A significant proportion of parents whose children never walk or bike to school, or only do so occasionally, wish that they did so more often. That positive attitude towards walking or biking is most common amongst those living within two miles of their child's school, as shown in Figure 2.

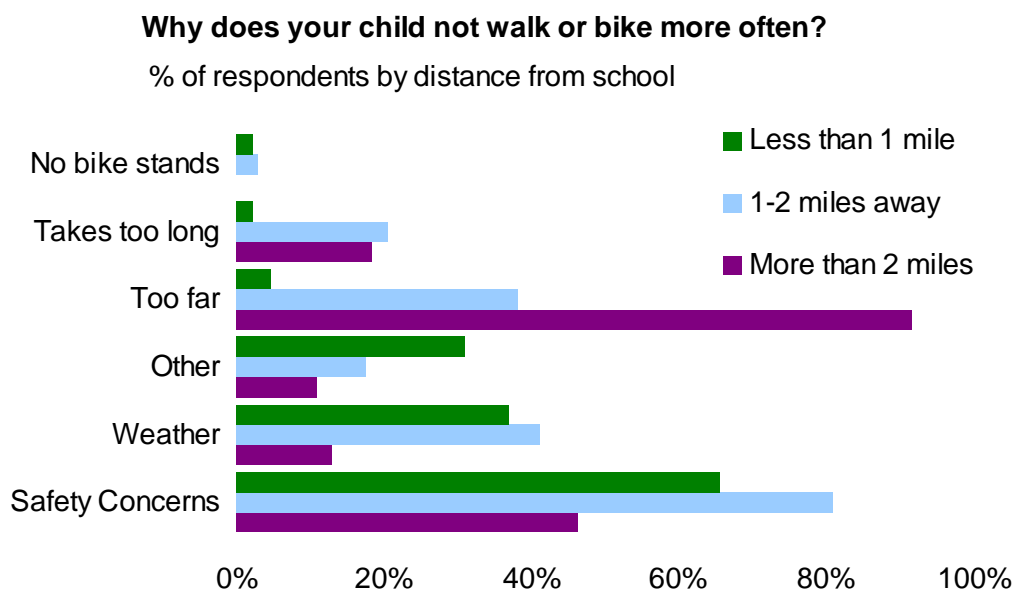
**Figure 2: Desire to walk or bike more often**

## Barriers to walking and biking

Overall, the main barriers to walking and biking to school were safety concerns and distance to school. The results showed (as would be expected) that distance diminished in importance for those who live close to their child's school. Adverse weather was cited most commonly by those living closer to school who walk sometimes.

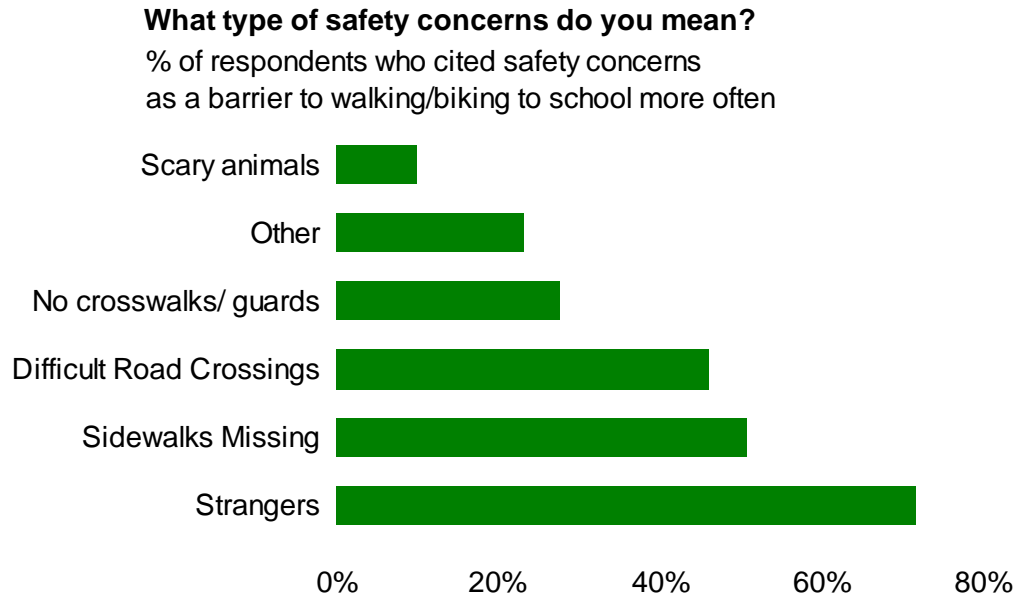
Figure 3 shows the reasons given for not walking or biking more often by distance from school.

**Figure 3: Barriers to walking and biking**



## Safety Concerns

The main safety concern highlighted by parents was strangers. Strangers were a larger concern than any infrastructure deficiencies such as missing sidewalks or lack of crosswalks, as shown in Figure 4.

**Figure 4 : Safety Concerns**

## Safe Routes To School (SR2S) Questionnaire

PAGE 6

Prepared by the City of Lebanon  
Pedestrian & Bicyclist Advisory Committee

### **Which school does your child attend?**

☐ Mt. Lebanon      ☐ Seminary Hill      ☐ Sacred Heart  
☐ School Street      ☐ Hanover Street      ☐ Lebanon Jr. High

### **How far do you live from the school? (Optional: What street do you live on? \_\_\_\_\_)**

☐ Less than 1 mile      ☐ 1 – 2 miles away      ☐ More than 2 miles away

### **How did your child get to school TODAY?**

☐ Walk      ☐ Bike      ☐ Bus      ☐ Dropped off

### **How often does your child walk or bike to school?**

☐ Never      ☐ Occasionally      ☐ Frequently      ☐ Always  
(0 days/week)      (1-2 days/week)      (3-4 days/week)      (5 days/week)

### **If you circled *Never* or *Occasionally* for the previous question, do you wish your child walked or biked to school more often?**

☐ Very Much So!      ☐ Yes      ☐ Don't Care      ☐ No

### **Are there specific reasons why your child does not walk or bike to school more often? (Check all that apply)**

☐ Too far      ☐ Takes too long      ☐ Weather  
(snowy/rainy days)  
☐ No place for bikes at school      ☐ Safety concerns      ☐ Other (describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **If you circled *Safety Concerns*, what types of concerns do you mean? (Check all that apply)**

☐ Sidewalks missing/  
or in poor condition      ☐ Difficult road  
crossings      ☐ No crosswalks/  
no crossing guards  
☐ Scary animals  
along route      ☐ Strangers/  
unfamiliar people      ☐ Other (describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Would you allow your child to walk or bike to school if he or she was accompanied by an adult?**

☐ Yes      ☐ No

### **Would you be interested in being involved in a local effort to identify and address issues related to children walking and/or biking to school?**

☐ Yes      ☐ No

### **Please describe any specific changes (either physical or behavioral) that would make you more comfortable about allowing your child to walk or bike to school.**

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**Data tabulations – overall results****Which School**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Mt. Lebanon	84	23.5%
	Seminary Hill	32	8.9%
	Sacred Heart	36	10.1%
	School Street	37	10.3%
	Hanover Street	92	25.7%
	Lebanon Jr. High	77	21.5%
	Total	358	100.0%

**How Far Do You Live from the school?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Less than 1 mile	115	32.8%
	1-2 miles away	71	20.2%
	More than 2 miles away	165	47.0%
	Total	351	100.0%
Missing	Did not answer	7	
Total		358	

**How did your child get to school today?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Walk	39	11.3%
	Bike	1	0.3%
	Bus	118	34.2%
	Dropped off	187	54.2%
	Total	345	100.0%
Missing	Did not answer	13	
Total		358	

**How often does your child walk or bike to school?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Never (0 days/week)	272	76.2%
	Occasionally (1-2 days/week)	32	9.0%
	Frequently (3-4 days/week)	20	5.6%
	Always (5 days/week)	33	9.2%
	Total	357	100.0%
Missing	Did not answer	1	
Total		358	



**Do you wish your child walked/biked more often?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Very Much So!	18	5.9%
	Yes	47	15.5%
	Don't Care	26	8.6%
	No	213	70.1%
	Total	304	100.0%
Missing	Did not answer	54	
Total		358	

**Reasons for not walking or biking more often (select all that apply)**

		Frequency	Percent of Cases
	Too far	182	55.8%
	Takes too long	46	14.1%
	Weather	82	25.2%
	No bike stands	4	1.2%
	Safety Concerns	194	59.5%
	Other	58	17.8%
Total		566	

**Safety Concerns (select all that apply)**

		Frequency	Percent of Cases
	Sidewalks Missing	106	50.5%
	Difficult Road Crossings	95	45.2%
	No crosswalks/ guards	59	28.1%
	Scary animals	22	10.5%
	Strangers	145	69.0%
	Other	49	23.3%
Total		476	

**Walk or bike to school accompanied by an adult**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	180	59.4%
	No	117	38.6%
	Maybe	6	2.0%
	Total	303	100.0%
Missing	Did not answer	55	
Total		358	

**Interested in being involved?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	82	26.0%
	No	223	70.8%
	Maybe	10	3.2%
	Total	315	100.0%
Missing	Did not answer	43	
Total		358	

## Data tabulations – results by school

### How Far Do You Live from the school?

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Less than 1 mile	37.8%	54.8%	51.4%	54.1%	18.7%	16.0%	32.8%
1-2 miles away	15.9%	6.5%	17.1%	18.9%	30.8%	20.0%	20.2%
More than 2 miles away	46.3%	38.7%	31.4%	27.0%	50.5%	64.0%	47.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### How did your child get to school today?

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Walk	16.7%	26.7%	16.1%	8.3%	4.6%	6.5%	11.3%
Bike					1.1%		0.3%
Bus	39.3%	20.0%	29.0%	19.4%	34.5%	42.9%	34.2%
Dropped off	44.0%	53.3%	54.8%	72.2%	59.8%	50.6%	54.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### How often does your child walk or bike to school?

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Never (0 days/week)	78.3%	59.4%	77.8%	78.4%	72.8%	83.1%	76.2%
Occasionally (1-2 days/week)	6.0%		8.3%	10.8%	18.5%	3.9%	9.0%
Frequently (3-4 days/week)	3.6%	9.4%	5.6%	2.7%	5.4%	7.8%	5.6%
Always (5 days/week)	12.0%	31.3%	8.3%	8.1%	3.3%	5.2%	9.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### Do you wish your child walked/biked more often?

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Very Much So!	7.4%		3.1%	5.9%	6.2%	7.1%	5.9%
Yes	13.2%	15.8%	18.8%	20.6%	17.3%	11.4%	15.5%
Don't Care	7.4%	5.3%	12.5%	5.9%	9.9%	8.6%	8.6%
No	72.1%	78.9%	65.6%	67.6%	66.7%	72.9%	70.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Reasons for not walking or biking more often (select all that apply)**

	School					
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High
Too far	64.9%	50.0%	34.4%	30.6%	56.3%	70.4%
Takes too long	9.5%	15.4%	0.0%	8.3%	21.8%	18.3%
Weather	20.3%	26.9%	15.6%	33.3%	27.6%	26.8%
No bike stands	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Safety Concerns	56.8%	57.7%	75.0%	69.4%	66.7%	42.3%
Other	21.6%	11.5%	21.9%	22.2%	11.5%	19.7%
Total	74	26	32	36	87	71

**Safety Concerns (select all that apply)**

	School					
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High
Sidewalks Missing	62.5%	60.0%	30.8%	38.5%	44.3%	64.7%
Difficult Road Crossings	56.3%	60.0%	34.6%	42.3%	42.6%	38.2%
No crosswalks/ guards	22.9%	26.7%	23.1%	34.6%	32.8%	26.5%
Scary animals	18.8%	20.0%	11.5%	3.8%	4.9%	8.8%
Strangers	70.8%	80.0%	76.9%	73.1%	68.9%	52.9%
Other	18.8%	13.3%	23.1%	19.2%	23.0%	38.2%
Total	48	15	26	26	61	34

**Walk or bike to school accompanied by an adult**

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Yes	56.9%	65.0%	73.5%	75.7%	60.8%	41.0%	59.4%
No	43.1%	35.0%	17.6%	24.3%	35.4%	59.0%	38.6%
Maybe			8.8%		3.8%		2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Interested in being involved?**

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Yes	26.1%	30.8%	27.8%	33.3%	29.8%	14.1%	26.0%
No	73.9%	69.2%	63.9%	58.3%	65.5%	85.9%	70.8%
Maybe			8.3%	8.3%	4.8%		3.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## Survey Comments

The final section of the survey invited ideas for specific changes that would make the parent more comfortable about allowing their child to walk or bike to school. A total of 111 comments were left; they are summarized in the table below (note that not all comments addressed the question specifically).

### Specific changes that would make you more comfortable about allowing your child to walk or bike to school

	School						Total
	Mt. Lebanon	Seminary Hill	Sacred Heart	School Street	Hanover Street	Leb Jr. High	
Sidewalks	5		2	1	1	5	14
Would walk/bike if we lived closer	4	1		2	4	2	13
Bridge			1		9		10
Crossing guard	1	2		1	4		8
Other	1			2	1	2	6
Strangers/Pedophiles			3	2	1		6
Adult presence on route	1		2		2		5
Speed enforcement	2	2		1			5
Bike paths	2				2		4
General concern			2	1	1		4
Too far				1	3		4
Bullies/ Older kids			1		2		3
Convenient to drive				1	2		3
If more children walked					1	2	3
Too young	1		1		1		3
Bike lanes on Hanover St dangerous			1		1		2
Crosswalks		1			1		2
Exercise during school				1	1		2
School to CCB links					2		2
Traffic					2		2
Weather				1	1		2
Winter snow removal	2						2
Walk with me or someone I know				2			2
Alternate drop off point					1		1
Personal safety education					1		1
Stop sign	1						1
Okay as things are now					1		1